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Honorable Lisa Lyons, Chair
House Standing Committee Education
S-1190 House Office Bldg.
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Re: HB 6004

Dear Representative Lyons,

First let me thank you for the opportunity to offer the following comments on House Bill 6004.

The Arc Michigan is a statewide organization of 12,000 members and 33 local chapter affiliates that advocate with, and on behalf of, citizens with developmental disabilities and their families. We have reviewed House Bill 6004 and have the following concerns.

The Education Achievement Authority has been operating for only two to three months. This is not enough time to draw any concrete conclusions on the effectiveness of this action for students in general or special education. This is not enough time to sort out unintended consequences especially for students with a disability. This is not enough time to determine how students with disabilities will fare in the EAA.

We ask that you wait until there is data from the EAA that is currently operating in the Detroit area, following closely how students with disabilities fare in the EAA before expending the EAA to include more schools across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Maggie Kolk

Maggie Kolk, Chair
Education Committee